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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/852,343	05/09/2001	Julio F. Rodrigues	577-478	4700

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EXAMINER

TA, THO DAC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/05/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/852,343

Applicant(s)

RODRIGUES ET AL.

Examiner

Tho D. Ta

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08/01/01.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-16, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said insertion end" on line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "said cable" on line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 2, it is unclear if "cable" recited on line 2 is a new cable or a repeat cable recited in claim 1.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "said movement" on line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "said insertion end" on line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 20 recites the limitation "said cable" on line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-8, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Szegda (5,470,257).

In regard to claims 1, 5, 20, Szegda discloses a coaxial cable connector 10 comprising: a connector body having a cable receiving end 22 and an opposed connection end 24; and a locking sleeve 26 in detachable (fig. 2), re-attachable (fig. 1) engagement with the cable receiving end 22, wherein the locking sleeve 26 is movable from a first position (fig. 4) loosely retaining a cable 12 in the connector body to a second position (fig. 5) locking the cable 12 in the connector body.

In regard to claims 2, 21, Szegda discloses that the locking sleeve 26 is positioned in surrounding engagement with the cable 12.

In regard to claims 3, 22, Szegda discloses that a movement from the first position to the second position is along a linear direction.

In regard to claim 4, Szegda discloses that the locking sleeve 26 sealably (at 46') couples the cable 12 to the connector body in the second position (fig. 5).

In regard to claim 6, Szegda discloses that the connector body is generally tubular and wherein the locking sleeve 26 is generally cylindrical and axially aligned with

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the connector body, the locking sleeve 26 having a forward end for insertion into the cable receiving end 22 and a receiving end for insertably accommodating the cable 12.

In regard to claim 7, Szegda discloses that the locking sleeve 26 is axially movable from the first position to the second position.

In regard to claim 8, Szegda discloses that the cable receiving end 22 and the forward end of the sleeve 26 include cooperative detent structure (50, 52) for the detachable, re-attachable snap engagement of the connector body and the sleeve 26.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

6. Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Langham et al. (6,210,222 B1).

In regard to claim 17, Langham et al. discloses the following steps:

providing a connector body 30 having a cable receiving end 38 and an opposed connection end 42;

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providing a locking sleeve 34 supported within the receiving end 38 (see fig. 3);
detaching the locking sleeve 34 from the body 30 (see fig. 2);
positioning the locking sleeve 34 over the cable 10 (column 7, lines 16-54);
inserting the cable into the connector body 30 (column 7, lines 55-67);
reattaching the locking sleeve to the body to secure the cable 10 to the body
(column 7, lines 55-67).

In regard to claim 18, Langham et al. discloses the step includes inserting the locking sleeve 34 into the cable receiving end 38.

In regard to claim 19, Langham et al. discloses the step includes moving the locking sleeve 34 from a first position loosely retaining the cable 10 in the body 30 to a second position securing the cable 10 to the body 30 (figures 8 and 9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szegda.

Szegda discloses generally all that is claimed except that the cooperative detent structure includes: the sleeve 26 having an annular radially inwardly extending body rib

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50 adjacent the receiving end; and the connector body including a radially outwardly opening annular groove 52 adjacent the forward end thereof; the rib being resident within the groove in the first position.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the rib 50 on the connector body and the groove 52 on the sleeve 26 since applicants have presented no explanation that these particular configurations of the engagement means are significant or are anything more than one of numerous configurations a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing engaging surfaces between two members and since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167.


Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (703) 308-0800. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'THO D. TA', written in a cursive style.

THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt
March 1, 2002